

### *Applications Now Accepted Through December*

Washington, DC - Wednesday, Harry Teague voted to extend the deadline for service members to apply for stop-loss compensation to ensure that eligible service members and veterans have enough time to apply for the program's benefits. The extension, passed by the House of Representatives, allows eligible members and veterans **to apply for this retroactive payment through December 3rd, 2010.**

"The brave men and women of our military dedicate their lives every day to the safety and security of our nation and I believe it is our duty to them in return to make sure that they are fairly compensated for the time their service was extended," said Harry Teague said. "Too many men and women who are eligible have yet to apply for what is owed to them and I will continue to fight to ensure that all eligible service men and women service members are aware of the program and have adequate time to apply for the benefits they deserve."

As a result of the "Stop Loss" policy enacted after September 11, 2001, hundreds of thousands of service men and women had their tours of duty involuntarily extended to ensure that troop levels were high enough to successfully combat terrorism. The Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay is available to service members of every military branch who had their service extended or retirement suspended due to Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible service members will receive \$500 for every month they were kept on active duty past their discharge date. **Currently, more than 100,000 people have yet to claim the money that is owed to them and their families.**

Applications are available by visiting the Department of Defense's website at [www.defense.gov/stoploss](http://www.defense.gov/stoploss)

Last week, Harry Teague hosted a conference call with leaders of New Mexico veterans groups last Thursday to reach out to local veterans and spread the word about stop-loss compensation, as well scheduling a series of upcoming [Mobile Office Hours](#) where staff will be available to answer questions about the Stop Loss benefits and help eligible veterans with their applications. For a full schedule of regular Mobile Office Hours, or for any assistance or questions, please [click here](#) or call 1-888-9-TEAGUE (832483).

###